

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 088029  
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JBOARDMAN:FLW  
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. HURWITZ  
-----200940Z 022923 /15

R 192248Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY SPY RING CASE

REFS: (A) SEOUL 0214, (B) SEOUL 2331

1. HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS HAVE AGAIN RAISED QUESTION OF  
LEGITIMACY UNIVERSITY SPY RING CASE AND ASKED FOR ADDI-  
TIONAL INFORMATION ON DEATH SENTENCES. ON BASIS OF EMBASSY  
REPORTING WE HAVE TOLD THEM THAT KIM CHOL-HYON AND PAEK  
OK-KWANG HAVE NOT BEEN EXECUTED, THAT ROKG INSISTS CASE  
GENUINE, AND THAT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION OF OUR OWN TO  
INDICATE CASE NOT BONA FIDE.

2. THE GROUPS HAVE TOLD US THEY BELIEVE THIS CASE INCLUDES  
SOME INDIVIDUALS OTHER THAN THOSE ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 22,  
1975. THEY ASSERT THAT A TOTAL OF SEVENTEEN KOREANS FROM  
JAPAN AND 22 RESIDENTS OF KOREA HAVE BEEN TRIED IN SEVERAL  
SEPARATE TRIALS. IN ADDITION TO TWO DEATH SENTENCES FROM  
NOVEMBER 22 LIST, KWON CHON-HONG AND YI CHO- ARE REPORTED-  
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LY UNDER DEATH SENTENCE. KWON MAY BE THE SAME INDIVIDUAL  
AS KANG CHONG-HUN MENTIONED IN REF A. WE HAVE NO INFORMA-  
TION ABOUT YI CHOL, EXCEPT THAT HE IS NOT THE YI CHOL  
SENTENCED IN THE 1974 EM 4 CASE.

3. IN VIEW OF CONTINUING INTEREST IN THIS CASE ON PART OF  
CONGRESS AND OTHERS WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION

ON STATUS OF DEATH SENTENCES OF KWON CHON-HONG AND YI  
CHOL AS WELL AS CONTINUING REPORTING OF ANY INDICATIONS  
THAT ROKG MAY BE MANUFACTURING SPY CASES TO INTIMIDATE  
STUDENTS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ESPIONAGE, PENAL SYSTEM, UNIVERSITIES  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE088029  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JBOARDMAN:FLW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** UNIVERSITY SPY RING CASE  
**TAGS:** PINT, KS, (KIM CHOL-HYON), (PAEK OK-KWANG), (KWON CHON-HONG), (YI CHOL)  
**To:** SEOUL  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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